

STATE DISPENSARY.

AT LAST THE ANNUAL REPORT HAS BEEN ISSUED.

Record of a Year—Interesting Figures Presented by the State Board of Control—The Practical Results.

The annual report of the State board of control was recently made public. This document has been awaited for some time. Here is what the board has to say:

Office of State Board of Control, South Carolina Dispensary, Columbia, S. C., Jan. 1, 1897.

To his Excellency, the Governor of the State of South Carolina: Pursuant to an Act of the General Assembly providing for a State board of control for the management of the dispensary, the undersigned assumed charge of its management on the first day of last April, and found its financial status to be as set forth in the following statement of assets and liabilities taken from the books of the dispensary:

Merchandise in hands of county dispensers, State's profits added, \$145,088 20

Less State's unearned profits added at time of shipment, 41,453 77

Value of above merchandise (cost price), \$103,634 43

Amount due by ex-dispensers and in process of settlement, 4,526 43

Personal accounts due State, 4,408 06

Cash—balance in State treasury, 3,921 22

Teams and wagons—inventory, 1,327 25

Machinery and office fixtures, 2,656 47

Merchandise at State dispensary, 73,067 17

Supplies at State dispensary, 47,741 54

Total, \$341,212 57

LIABILITIES. Personal accounts due by State, \$ 4,065 36

Due from general fund of the State from former earnings, 192,857 89

Net accrued profit for present quarter passed to credit of State School fund, 44,299 32

Total, \$341,212 57

Before assuming the duties of our office an inventory of all liquors and supplies on hand was carefully taken by a committee composed of the Legislative examining committee and representatives of this board.

We found liquors on hand in the State dispensary to amount of \$378,067.17; liquors in hands of county dispensers \$145,088.20; supplies \$47,741.54, and cash in the State treasury \$3,921.22 as set forth in the above schedule of assets.

We found an accrued profit due the general or current fund of \$92,847.89, and an accrued profit of \$44,299.32 to the credit of the school fund.

As frequent inquiries into the subject show the fact that many citizens of the State do not clearly comprehend the legal status of the general fund, and the school fund in respect of their association with dispensary profits, we deem it wise to briefly comment on the authority creating a school fund, and the nature of the dispensary, and trust that we may sufficiently elucidate it so as to make it readily understood by those who may make future inquiry into the matter.

There are many who seem unable to understand why the general fund had a priority of claim over the school fund on the first of January last to the amount of \$192,847.89. It is simply a question of the direct or indirect growth of that specific requirement of the late Constitutional Convention, which ordained that the net income of the dispensary from the first of last January shall be put aside for school purposes. Before this ordinance became operative (the Constitution being not in force until the first of last January) there was a balance of net accrued profit due the State to the amount of \$192,847.89.

This ordinance not being retroactive did not, therefore, make any provision for the disposition of the \$192,847.89, which had accrued as a net profit prior to the first of last January. And inasmuch as the net profits of the dispensary accruing prior to January last to the credit of any specific fund, these accrued profits were placed to the credit of the general fund of the State, and being the oldest claim made, therefore, be liquidated from the accumulated cash surplus before the school fund (the younger claim) can hope for any payment. The cash accumulated in the dispensary.

We have paid into the State treasury in the last four months \$100,000 to the credit of the general fund, and will liquidate the \$92,000 balance that is to the credit of the same fund by the first of June.

TO THE CREDIT OF THE SCHOOL FUND. It is now to the credit of the school fund \$222,937.31, which represents the net accrued profit from the business of the dispensary for the past year. A conservative estimate of the possibilities of the business guarantees safety in the prediction that we will make a first payment of \$15,000 to the school fund by the first of next August, and a like amount by first of August, October, November and December \$25,000 each. Should these expectations be realized, we will have paid at the close of the present year \$130,000 to the credit of the school fund and the balance of \$92,937.31, in round numbers, to the general fund. In 1896 the total of \$822,000, which we will have paid at the close of the present year, from the cash accumulations of the State dispensary.

There are incorporated in this report and to be found under their proper heads statements of the purchases, sales, profits to towns and counties and State, and the total profits from all sources from the beginning of the dispensary to the close of the past fiscal year.

INVITE THE CLOSEST SCRUTINY. We invite the closest scrutiny of every detail of our official acts, and are content for the results of our labors to speak for themselves.

In the management of the dispensary we have endeavored to husband every resource and such energy and ability as we may possess have been given unstintingly to it. It is a business of great magnitude and of a complex nature, and we are impressed with the gravity of our duties and the great responsibilities which they carry. And in our efforts to master every detail of the business we have been moved with a desire to protect the interest of the State and to so act as to best conserve the welfare of the whole people.

Our purchases, we consider, have been made judiciously, and in price and quality will compare most favorably with purchases made by our predecessors. In the one item of rebates there have been saved to the State in the past year more than forty-one thousand dollars.

By the last of this month every debt which we owe will have matured and

TWO YOUNG MEN.

SKETCHES OF THE GOVERNOR AND LIEUT. GOVERNOR.

Something About Wm. H. Ellerbe and Miles H. McSweney—The Latter a Self-Made Man.

Below we give brief sketches of the new governor and lieutenant governor.

GOV. WM. H. ELLERBE.

Hon. Wm. H. Ellerbe, who is in August the governor of South Carolina, is a young man of 29, is one of the youngest men who has ever held that position in this State being just 34 years of age. His home is in Marion county and he has lived there always except whilst attending college and serving as controller general.

Governor Ellerbe is a practical farmer and in his early youth his hands were hardened by constant contact with plow and hoe handles. He always applied himself steadily to his business and has been very successful in his chosen pursuits and whilst it is not necessary now that he should engage in the manual labor of the farm he is fully qualified for work of any kind that should be found necessary.

Governor Ellerbe went from a common school in his own county to Wolford college at Spartanburg, but before graduating there he entered Vanderbilt University. On account of ill health he was prevented from finishing his course at the latter institution, and, returning to his home, took up the pursuit of farming as his life-work.

In the memorable campaign of 1890 the same convention that nominated Capt. B. R. Tillman for governor, and in which the Reformers of course were largely in the majority, there were two men nominated for comptroller general, viz: Messrs. Stokes and Ellerbe, the latter being a small, thin, young man, very foreign in appearance and entirely unknown in politics. He was regarded by his friends as a moderate Reformer. His opponent was a much more extreme partisan. The vote showed Ellerbe's opponent to be in the lead, but at the solicitation of a Columbia newspaper man four of the Richmond delegation changed their votes and Ellerbe was nominated by a small majority. He did not make a speech in that campaign.

In 1892 Mr. Ellerbe was renominated and elected comptroller and this important office, for the four years he was at its head, was acknowledged on all sides to have been ably, honestly and impartially performed. His record in that office was called a "Reform primary"—a scheme to let Reformers choose their candidate and shutting out Conservatives. Mr. Ellerbe entered this as a candidate for governor against Evans, Tindal and Pope. He was opposed to the plan which shut him off from the support of all the people, but in the conditions then existing the plan was held to be the best of the ones before the voters. The nomination of John Gray Evans, a free-former, would have undoubtedly resulted in the choice of Ellerbe.

Last Summer Mr. Ellerbe once again announced himself a candidate for governor and received seventy odd thousand votes as against 17,000 as the combined strength of Messrs. Evans, Tindal and Pope. He was elected and his political strength in the State.

Governor Ellerbe assumes the gubernatorial duties with a large following of all classes, more than any governor has had since Governor Richardson's retirement and every one predicts for him a safe and prosperous administration.

THE NEW LIQUOR GOVERNOR. Hon. M. H. McSweney, to whom was administered recently the oath of office as lieutenant governor of South Carolina, is a good example of what pluck and perseverance will do for any one against the most adverse conditions. Young McSweney was left fatherless when Charleston was laid in ruins. His father was a man of considerable political strength in the State.

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THE DEAF AND BLIND.

REPORT AS TO TWO CLASSES OF THE STATE'S WARDS.

Supt. Walker's Annual Report Showing What the Institution at Cedar Springs is Doing.

The annual report of the South Carolina Institution for the education of the deaf and blind, was made public yesterday. The following extracts from Superintendent Walker's report will be of general interest. This report covers a period of 14 months, from November 1, 1895, to December 31, 1896.

"One hundred and seventy pupils, representing 38 counties, have been reported during the year, as follows: Deaf 117, blind 63. One hundred and forty-two of this number are present at this date. The average attendance has been 136."

"The following items of repairs have been made during the year: The entire building re-plastered; steam pipes, radiators, etc., re-braced; all windows and doors repaired; new floors around buildings; two surface water closets; gymnasium building supplied with steam heat; office, dining rooms and all halls on first story of building papered; the large front room on second story of building is divided by partitions into two rooms, thus giving an additional room for a room in west end of third story, heretofore used as a school room, space occupied for girls' dormitories; an electric time and program clock, consisting of a master program clock, five secondary dials, fifteen signal bells and all necessary batteries, wires, etc., have, heretofore, called the attention of the legislature, through your board, to the condition of the building used for colored pupils and the danger of fire in case of fire. Unless the next legislature provide for a suitable building for this department, I would urge the discontinuation of that department until such time as it can be properly provided for. I feel that during the year an additional fire escape added to that building. Said building is of wood and was built more than three quarters of a century ago."

"The attention of the legislature has also been called, repeatedly, to our great need of a laundry plant. The present proper laundry machinery. This is now the only State institution which is not provided with a proper and modern method of lights, and we feel sure it is the one which stands most in need of same. We are using kerosene oil and candles. Our laundry work is done in the most primitive style. We have seen no reason to change the present method of doing up these necessary improvements."

"In this connection I submit that it would be well, at this time, for the policy of the State to be outlined in the matter of the separation of the two classes, the blind and the deaf, here provided for. There are three plans for the solution of this question. First, to establish a separate building and school for either the deaf or the blind at some other point in the State; second, to erect a building in connection with and near the present plant for either the blind or the deaf, and thereby have each class occupy its own separate quarters, but under the same general management; or third, to change the present building and to divide the work under the present plan. If favor the first or the second plan, the only objection that can be urged against them is the greater cost to the State for the erection of suitable buildings and their equipments and the increased expense that would be incident to the running of two institutions instead of one. The plan that I favor is that of having both schools under one management but in separate buildings, would cost the State less in the outset, and the annual current expense would be much less than under the first named plan. The third plan, to increase the present plant and continue the two classes together, would be a saving to the State of one thousand dollars in matter of first cost and annual expense of the three plans, respectively. Under the first, a separate plan, would cost in the neighborhood of \$50,000. That is less than the cost of the plant here, and it would not be in the line of economy to erect a similar plant. North Carolina has recently decided to erect a building for the deaf at Morganton, N. C., at a cost of \$150,000. The annual current expense would be \$0 to 40 per cent. greater than under the present plan, provided the new school be located in a city. Under the second plan, the first cost would be considerably less, probably 70 and 80 per cent. of the amount mentioned under the first plan. The annual current expense would be 15 to 20 per cent. greater than under the present plan. The erection of an additional building here, at a cost of something like \$20,000, would enable us to accommodate 100 more pupils than we now have. At the present rate of increase it will be only a few years until we will have as many pupils as can accommodate in our present quarters. If it be the policy of the State to adopt either the second or the third plan above mentioned, then it would be in the line of economy to provide, at once, a sufficient engine and dynamo for a light plant to supply the additional buildings, and also to increase the number of pupils in attendance."

"Only one-half of the outside of our building has been cemented, viz: the front and west end. The east end and the rear should be finished off in the same manner, thereby preserving the walls and giving the entire building a uniform appearance. With an addition of \$400 to our usual appropriation for repairs, etc., we can do this cementing and effect other necessary repairs."

"The following appropriations will be necessary for the proper maintenance of the school for the ensuing year: For support, etc., \$18,000; for repairs, etc., \$9,000; for building for colored pupils, \$8,000; for electric light plant and laundry machinery, \$4,620—total, \$39,620."

St. Joseph, Mo., Jan. 26.—The bodies of Park Sterling and George Boone, resting near Hamilton, Mo., were found beside the road yesterday. It is thought that they became numb with the cold and lay down to sleep while intoxicated.

Foot Cut Off by a Train. PETERSBURG, Va., Jan. 26.—Mr. James Williamson, an employee of the Atlantic Coast Line and a well-known citizen of Petersburg, was run over by a train tonight and both feet cut off. It is feared that his injuries will prove fatal.

A Fatal Drunk. ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Jan. 26.—The bodies of Park Sterling and George Boone, resting near Hamilton, Mo., were found beside the road yesterday. It is thought that they became numb with the cold and lay down to sleep while intoxicated.

Double Murder. AUGUSTA, Ga., Jan. 26.—News of a double murder has been received from Tuxaloo Valley, near the line between Georgia and South Carolina. The victims were a man and a woman, both of whom were killed by a party who had been drinking. The bodies were found in a field near the road.

Shot His Own Throat. ST. LOUIS, Jan. 27.—This afternoon a man giving the name of James Kelly called at the office of chief of Detectives Desmond. He said that he wished to surrender himself to the authorities. Detective Badger asked the man to be seated and he had scarcely taken a chair when he thrust the blade of a pocket knife into the left side and bled to death before anything could be done for him.

IN THE HOUSE.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE.

county whose treasurer borrows money under this act shall be responsible for the due redemption of such pledge. Provided, that when the said commission has funds not desired to be taken by any county treasurer of this State under this act, the sinking fund of such county shall be used for the redemption of such pledge. The bill was passed by the House on the first day of February, 1896. If the aggregate of all the applications for loans to said treasurers did not exceed the amount of the sinking fund of such county, the amount of funds lendable by said commission hereunder, the said commission shall appropriate the loan to such county and such loan shall not exceed 70 per cent of the ordinary county levy of said county.

Mr. DeLoache's bill relating to amendments to the act to authorize and to allow for the purpose of issuing bonds for corporate purposes, etc., was ordered to a third reading without debate.

In the House Friday but very little was accomplished. The only two bills disposed of were those providing that county officials keep their offices open at certain hours, and providing that no other labor be employed on State farms. Both after tedious debates, were ordered to a final reading.

During the day Mr. L. D. Childs of Richmond introduced the measure proposed by the prohibitionists of the State for the solution of the liquor problem. It continues the dispensary system as at present arranged, but does away with the profit and beverage features thereof. It also has provisions relating to the importation of liquors from other States for personal use to conform to the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court.

Among other new bills was one by Mr. McCall to regulate building and loan associations.

The House then took a recess until noon on Tuesday next on account of the fact that Monday is an important day for the members who will go to Rock Hill on a special train to visit and inspect the Winthrop Normal College.

"A Cruel Surprise." What the News and Courier calls "a cruel surprise" has recently occurred at Chicago in the closing down of the Chicago Works of the Illinois Steel Company, by which twelve hundred men were thrown out of work. Such occurrences as this may surprise the News and Courier and other gold bug organs, because they are wrapped up in their dense ignorance and prejudice, and can't see beyond the interests of the moneyed men who own and control them. It is no surprise, however, to those of us who have investigated the financial condition that now oppresses every legitimate enterprise of the country. It was just such a cruel surprise, as the one the News and Courier speaks of, that Bryan and other Democratic speakers in the late campaign predicted would come for McKinley and the United States during the past several days of one of the severest, considering both the low temperatures that prevailed in many places and the vast extent of the area covered, that has been recorded by the Weather Bureau in its thirty years of existence. The South today had an unusual experience throughout Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and a large portion of Georgia, a fall of snow from one to three inches in depth is reported to the Weather Bureau.

Brother and Sister Married. The two old gossipers who disclosed the fact that a couple in Kansas who have been married thirty years and have nine children are brother and sister, would have done better to keep their knowledge to themselves. The fact that they were never heard of by subsequently removed to two widely separated States, and the children grew up with the names of their adopted parents and ignorant of their past. When grown they met in a third State where the young man was studying medicine, and the girl was teaching in a school. They were both late, two old men who came from the town where they were born chanced to meet in their house and started giving reminiscences which led to the discovery. Truth is sometimes stranger than fiction.

Nitro-Glycerine Explosion. LIMA, Ohio, Jan. 27.—A terrific nitro-glycerine explosion occurred at Cygnet, Ohio, this afternoon, in which two persons were instantly killed and two others injured. A man named John Smith was blown about a hundred feet away from the explosion, was badly cut on the head by flying debris. A little girl a thousand feet away from the scene of the disaster was cut by broken glass that fell from the windows in her home. Her injuries are not serious. It is supposed that the explosion was caused by the explosion of a barrel of nitro-glycerine in the magazine when in some manner it exploded. Both were blown to atoms. The shock was so severe that every pane of glass in the town was broken and doors were blown off their hinges. The explosion was heard several miles away.

Three Million Dollar Fire. PHILADELPHIA, January 26.—A fire started at 6:45 o'clock this morning from an over heated oven in the basement of the six-story brick building known as the Mark street, burned over the block bounded by Thirteenth and Juniper streets, and consumed property valued at \$3,000,000. Many small storekeepers lost their all and several thousand working people were thrown out of employment. The damaged buildings were generally fully insured. The fire was the worst that has been experienced in Philadelphia in a generation.

Liberty or Death. NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—Referring to the report that Spain is about to concede a home rule measure to the Cuban insurgents, Thomas Estrada Palma of the Cuban Junta said today: "Unconditional and absolute independence is all that Cuba will ever accept from the government of Spain. We will not have the right of self-determination, but we will have the right to govern our own people. It is not a home rule proposition. It has not been made, and if it should be it will receive no consideration at our hands."

Suicide of a Cashier. LEIGH, Neb., Jan. 27.—Last night Frank J. Lespa, cashier of the Clark, South State Bank, at Clarkson, Neb., committed suicide. He had recently sold an interest which he held in the bank, and no reason for his act can be assigned.

Girl Kills Another. LAURENS, S. C., Jan. 27.—Hattie Fleicher and Addie Foster, colored school girls, fought yesterday five miles from this city. Addie received a knife wound in the neck, from which she died in a few hours.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER.

A cream of tartar baking powder Highest of all in leavening strength—Latest United States Government Food Report.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER. Absolutely Pure.

A cream of tartar baking powder Highest of all in leavening strength—Latest United States Government Food Report.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., New York.

starvation abroad.

We hear considerable complaint about hard times from our country people, but we have no doubt that there is a great deal better off than the people of the North and West. Up there thousands of them are on the verge of starvation. In all the large cities of those sections thousands and tens of thousands are being fed by the public and charitable institutions. A dispatch from Chicago on Tuesday morning said the thermometer was sixteen degrees below zero, and that the suffering among the poor was intense and that the mayor of the city had issued a proclamation calling for bread for the starving. This same condition of want and starvation exists in all the large cities of the North and East. It is appalling to contemplate.

According to reports made to the mayor of Chicago by the bureau of charities and other committees, that have applied to him the number of destitute families is increasing each day, until the conditions seem almost insupportable. Immediate relief is necessary, or it is said many will die of starvation and cold. The police stations all over the city are filled with lodgers. Hundreds of homes are without fuel or food and skilled workmen are begging on the streets. Committees from charitable institutions and many individual philanthropists have called upon Mayor McCook to urge him to make an appeal to the public for immediate help for the sufferers. Distribution of fuel and food have been carried on by the bureau of charities, but they say they are unable to take care of one fifth of the people who beg assistance.

County Commissioners reported to Mayor Swift Tuesday that the list of needy families at the rate of from three hundred to five hundred families a day. These are not the families of paupers, but of skilled workmen who are unable to get work. Through the suggestions of Mayor Swift, Chief of Police Badenoch issued an order tonight which will facilitate the furnishing of relief to such as are in danger of death from want of food or shelter. The patrolmen throughout the city were ordered to make all reports on cases of extreme destitution and explain the character of relief desired. To all such cases immediate assistance will be rendered. This is a terrible condition of affairs in a large city and many of the workers in the men who have worked for McKinley and gold bugs, but they won't do so any more. Their eyes have been opened.

Changes in the Senate. The United States Senate after the 4th of next March will have a number of new Senators in it. In the place of David B. Hill, of New York, will be the great Republican boss, Thomas C. Platt. Succeeding the silent Don Cameron, of Pennsylvania, will be Boies Penrose, a young college graduate and Philadelphia "society man"—a pet of Matt Quay's nevertheless. In the place of Dan Voorhees, of Indiana—the eloquent and picturesque—will be found Charles W. Fairbanks, tall lank and bearded—the first millionaire senator from Indiana, and whose first oratorical effort of a national sort made as temporary chairman of the Republican national convention, was a failure. In the seat of John M. Palmer, of Illinois, late Assistant Republican candidate for President, will be found that master of political roustabout language, Wm. E. Mason, known as "Bully." The smooth faced, gray haired Higginis, of Delaware, has a Democratic free silver successor in R. B. Kenney. In the place of Senator Peffer, of Kansas, will be William A. Harris, another Populist, but a better one. He was a Confederate soldier. John B. Gordon, of Georgia, will be succeeded by A. S. Clay and J. M. Irby, of South Carolina, by Judge J. H. Earle. The chances seem against the return of Fred Doolittle, of Idaho. Jones, of Arkansas; Teller, of Colorado; Gallinger, of New Hampshire; Pritchard, of North Carolina; Vest, of Missouri; Hansborough, of North Dakota, and Platt, of Connecticut, have been returned. Jones, of Nevada, will probably be re-elected, but Blackburn, of Kentucky, is as good as beaten.

Farmers' Wives. I believe that farmers' wives should receive regular wages from their husbands. Can't a man get a woman's back to do a week's washing for \$3 or \$4 or \$5 every Saturday night and an occasional share in the profits. Why not? Ah, how well it would "pay." That is what some farmers think of first even before the welfare of their wives. Let each husband and each son have so much of the back of his wife's hand which to gain a bit of ground for vegetables, a tool chest—and pay for good jobs done, some animals to keep or to raise and sell. If this plan could be generally adopted, the exodus from New England and would not be so alarming as it is. Let the boys go west for a chance to live of their own lives, to see a little of the world, to earn money of their own to get out of grooves and ruts and from under a rigid, close listed master whom they call father. No inducements are held out for them to remain—Kate Sanborn in "Abandoning an Adopted Farm."

Murder and Suicide. HARTFORD, Conn., Jan. 28.—Last night Joseph Boxell, a merchant, shot Bra Brotherton, daughter of the oldest merchant in the city, in the back of the head. Boxell then shot himself in the head, dying instantly. Boxell was 25 years old and his victim 15. The two had been lovers, but Miss Brotherton had discarded Boxell by request of her parents.